



Mayor's column August 7, 2014

More Roads

Sometimes we tend to think nothing is happening if we don't see it with our own eyes, or if we're not involved in it on a routine basis.

As Mayor, I touch base nearly every day on many City and State projects, so I know where they stand. I know that there is lots of work going on even if no shovels are turning dirt.

A citizen reminded me this past weekend that it's time for another update on road projects. Actually, what he said was, "We need more roads!" Then I told him we have many more roads coming – they're just not in the stages where you see work on the ground, yet. Here's a list of some of them:

1. **Albert Gallatin/Hatten Track Extension:** The City received a Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) grant to widen Albert Gallatin from the intersection of Dobbins Pike over the railroad tracks with a new intersection at Blythe/Hatten Track. The new road will continue from this new intersection over to State Route 109 where there will be an elevated interchange. This \$30-million project is funded 80% by Federal and State of Tennessee dollars and 20% by the City. It is a massive undertaking. Currently, contractors hired by the City are in the process of purchasing right-of-way. Because this project is receiving federal funds, we must follow federal law that sets out the process. It is complex and multi-layered, but much work is being done. We plan to bid the project out for construction toward the end of 2015.
2. **Airport Road:** The State has given the City two State Industrial Access (SIA) grants – both for the widening of Airport Road. These grants provide nearly 100% state funding. One grant of \$1.34-million will widen Airport Road to three lanes from Coles Ferry to Steam Plant Road with a signalized intersection at Steam Plant Road. It is currently being designed by the TDOT. They plan to bid it for construction in the first half of 2015. The other SIA grant will shift Airport Road as it passes the Sumner County Regional Airport. The Airport has extended its runway and plans to add hangar space. This is a \$5-million dollar grant that involves not only moving the road, but also moving electric, gas, water, sewer and other utilities. This project has taken more time, but is nearing time when it can be bid out for construction.
3. **Extension of Greenlea Boulevard over to Long Hollow Pike:** This project is in the phase where right-of-way is being purchased. TDOT is also managing this \$4.4-million project. TDOT and the City are splitting the costs 50/50.
4. **The Krystal Intersection:** Another project TDOT is handling with 100% federal funding and no cost to the City is the improvement of the intersection at Hwy 31/Broadway and Hwy 25/Red River. A right turn lane will be added to Red River Road at Hwy 31 and a new mast-arm traffic signal will be added. TDOT anticipates bidding this out for construction before the end of this year.
5. **Industrial Center Road:** Because of the tremendous activity and interest in our Industrial Center, TDOT has given us another SIA grant to extend the new Gateway Drive even further into Phase 2 of the Industrial Center. TDOT is funding 100% of this \$685,000 project.

As you can see, we have major road projects underway – just not coming out of the ground today. These are on top of what our own city crews are doing to pave city roads this year at a cost of \$700,000.

You may not see the work, but there is a lot underway. If you have any questions about these projects, or any others in the City, please give me a call at 451-5961 or email me at joann.graves@gallatin-tn.gov. I'm always glad to share Gallatin's progress with you.